

CLAIMS

What is claimed as invention is:

1. A carrier and storage apparatus for propane gas tanks, said carrier and storage
5 apparatus comprising:

a shell member having a pair of shell halves, a base portion, a top portion,
and a plurality of side portions;

stacking means for engaging said base portion with the top portion of a
shell member placed below;

10 lateral nesting means for engaging at least one of said side portions with a
side portion of an adjacent shell member;

hinge means for opening said shell halves to enclose a gas tank; and

fastener means for securing said shell halves together.

15 2. The carrier and storage apparatus of claim 1 wherein said top portion includes
at least one opening defining a handle.

3. The carrier and storage apparatus of claim 1 wherein said hinge means
comprises a living hinge.

20 4. The carrier and storage apparatus of claim 1 wherein said fastener means

comprises a releasable buckle.

5 5. The carrier and storage apparatus of claim 1 wherein said stacking means
comprises an interior rim on said base portion.

 6. The carrier and storage apparatus of claim 1 wherein said lateral nesting means
comprises a surface structure on at least one of said side portions.

10 7. The carrier and storage apparatus of claim 1 wherein said lateral nesting means
comprises a plurality of ribs on at least one of said side portions.

 8. The carrier and storage apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least one of said side
portions includes a generally planar surface area.

15 9. The carrier and storage apparatus of claim 1 wherein said shell member tapers
inwardly from all sides at said top portion.

 10. The carrier and storage apparatus of claim 1 wherein said shell member tapers
inwardly from all sides at said base portion.

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